BONUS! FACTORS & TIPS TO CONSIDER BEFORE BUYING

THE ULTIMATE

MOBILITY SCOOTER BUYER'S GUIDE

A Complete Guide to Choosing the Right Mobility Scooter

AMICA MEDICAL SUPPLY

OVERVIEW & FACTORS TO CONSIDER

The decision of which electric scooter to buy can be daunting, however. Scooters are an investment that you can enjoy for many years, so taking the time to do your research ahead of time can save you frustration down the road. This guide will help you familiarize yourself with the questions to ask to ensure that you buy the mobility scooter that best suits your needs. If you are suffering from limited mobility, an electric mobility scooter is a ticket to freedom. An electric scooter will help you to live a more independent life, without having to rely on other people to navigate your own home or to enjoy the outdoors.

Factors to consider when buying a mobility scooter?

1 **Indoor or outdoor use?**

Where you plan to use your scooter will have a major impact on your choice of which model to buy. If you are planning to use your scooter mostly inside your home, for example, a tight turning radius and easy maneuverability are going to be your most important concerns. A compact mobility scooter could be the right choice for you.

If you are intending to travel outdoors, you will want to have a more solid scooter that can handle rough ground and uneven pavement gracefully. Stability and speed will be important considerations. A 4 wheel mobility scooter could be your best bet.

2 **Will you need to transport your mobility scooter?**

If you are planning to take your electric scooter with you when you travel in a vehicle, you will have a different set of concerns than if you are planning to run most of your errands from your home. Unless you have a large vehicle that accommodates a full-sized scooter, a compact mobility scooter is a good choice for travel in automobiles.

Compact mobility scooters are designed for convenient travel. Depending on the model you choose, these scooters can fold down to fit into the trunk of a car, or be assembled and disassembled without requiring tools.

3 **Are you planning to drive on roads?**

If you would like to use your travel mobility scooter on roads instead of on pavement or grass, you should familiarize yourself with local laws. In most cases, medical scooters need to be able to travel at least 8 MPH to be used on roads, and must be equipped with both headlights and taillights.

4 **Do you need to navigate curbs or steep hills?**

If you are planning to navigate difficult terrain such as steep hills or curbs, you will need an electric scooter with some extra power behind it. A 4 wheel mobility scooter often has the power and the stability to handle obstacles.

Quick Reference Guide

Ground Clearance

Ground clearance is how high above the ground the mobility scooter sits. Ground clearance is important for you outdoor aficionados out there. You are going to want as high a ground clearance as possible so you don't worry about rocks or bumps in the road.

Operating Range

The operating range is the distance the mobility scooter can go on one charge. Remember, operating range will vary due to rider weight, drive surface, age of battery, terrain, etc.

Tiller

The tiller is the front column on a mobility scooter, and operators steer by turning it with the handles. Most mobility scooters feature an adjustable tiller. The user can change the tiller angle by sliding it into different slots or fixing it into various positions with flexible teeth. The tillers on some mobility scooters do not adjust though, so buyers should try to make sure that the fixed position of these tillers is comfortable for them before purchasing the scooters.

Unit Weight

The unit weight is how much the scooter weighs. Knowing the overall weight of your mobility scooter is important in case you want to transport it or travel.

Unit Weight

scooter seats vary depending on the size of the scooter. Smaller scooters have smaller seats with lower backrests and a more limited range of adjustments. Larger scooters generally feature larger seats, some with headrests, and broader adjustment possibilities. All mobility scooter seats should swivel to make it easier

Weight Capacity

The weight capacity is the maximum weight the scooter can hold. It is important to know the weight capacity of your mobility scooter as you do not want it breaking down out of dilapidation and over use.

Turning Radius

The turning radius of your mobility scooter refers to the diameter length of the circular path while turning. This is important depending on where and how often you will be using it. If your primary reason for using a mobility scooter is for indoor use, you are going to want one with a higher turning radius. This will help you maneuver around your house (including hallways, bathrooms, kitchens, etc.) with ease.

Controls

Mobility scooters feature a lever, called a "wig-wag", by which the operator can put the scooter into drive. Operators can use their thumbs on the wig-wag and their fingers on the control paddles that move the scooter forward or backward. Some large luxury scooters enable operators to control the wig-wag by finger. Most scooters have the forward controls on the right paddle and the backward controls on the left, but it is possible to find mobility scooters with the forward control on the left paddle to accommodate left-handed operators.

Batteries

Majority of mobility scooters have multiple 12-volt rechargeable batteries. The larger the batteries are, the longer and further the scooter can travel before it needs recharging. The size of the battery correlates to amp hours, noted as "Ah". Larger mobility scooters have batteries with up to 75Ah and can operate for 20 hours before needing recharge. Portable scooters usually have batteries with 12Ah.

Quick Tip

Try not to be fooled by any marketing hype. While it might be pretty flashy that a scooter is made from a rare metal found deep in the jungle, is it really the best for you? Filter by your needs and compare the best scooter for you.

MOBILITY SCOOTER TYPES

Portable (Travel)

If you are one that likes to go on trips with your grandchildren or needs to travel often, a Portable/Travel Mobility Scooter is for you. It definitely helps that the scooter be light, as most are, but be sure to check the total unit weight of the scooter. The ability to fold or be taken apart quickly is also an important aspect to look out for.

Standard

These standard mobility scooters are your all-purpose scooters that have a bit of everything and thus range in the middle of pack among all mobility scooters. Standard scooters are available in 3 or 4 wheel and able to travel ranges up to 20 miles. There are also all-terrain models with large tires that can tackle the outdoors with ease.

Heavy Duty

Heavy duty mobility scooters are the big mamma jammas of the industry. They are meant to take a beating and carry a lot of weight. So if you are on the heavier side or need to carry heavy loads (groceries/equipment/or even grandchildren), these mobility scooters are for you.

Luxury

These are considered the cream of the crop. They come with all the bells and whistles and look great too. Be careful though as some manufacturers might use this title just for marketing purposes. Compare the specs against of other categories to truly find the best for you.

Sport

Sport mobility scooters are for the speed devils out there. In terms of specs, they're a bit faster, look a bit sleeker, and sometimes are themed (i.e. the scooter might use actual motorcycle parts). Choose wisely.

How to Maintain a Mobility Scooter

Thanks to the use of mobility scooters, hundreds of thousands of Americans are able to get around more efficiently and therefore enjoy a better quality of life than they might be able to otherwise. However, just like with any other tool or piece of equipment, a mobility scooter requires a proper level of upkeep in order to continue performing at its peak capability.

Battery

Ensuring the proper function of a mobility scooter battery constitutes perhaps the most important bit of routine maintenance in terms of assuring the safety of the scooter's operator. The unexpected demise of a scooter battery presents much more than a mere inconvenience, as it can leave the operator in a truly precarious position both figuratively and literally. In order to prevent such unwelcome occurrences, mobility scooter owners should maintain a rigorous regimen of battery maintenance.

- Protecting the battery from extreme temperatures and moisture
- Using the charger provided at the point of purchase
- Charging the battery for at least eight hours every day it is used
- Refraining from overcharging, which can damage the battery
- Unplugging the charger when not in use

Tires

For a device whose function is predicated on rolling, it almost goes without saying that mobility scooter tires and wheels deserve a healthy dose of attention when it comes time to inspect the machine. Using a tire gauge, owners should make sure to inflate the tires to the standards set forth in the mobility scooter's user manual. Doing show not only makes for a more comfortable ride, but lengthens the life of the tires by reducing their wear and tear. If routine checkups reveal that the tires need constant refilling, users should look closely for slow leaks or puncture wounds that might be the source of the problem.

Routine Checkups

While an owner taking the initiative to care for his or her mobility scooter can prevent and correct certain things, there are some problems better left to the professionals. Whether they be invisible to the untrained eye or require specific mechanical or electrical expertise to properly correct, such issues should be addressed during scheduled routine maintenance. Experts recommend consulting with a licensed dealer or repairman at least once every 12 months.

TROUBLESHOOTING

Tips to Consider When Troubleshooting a Scooter

Several mechanical problems can occur with mobility scooters, including issues such as the motor not running, batteries not holding a charge, and tires going flat, among other breakdowns.

1 Cannot Get the Scooter to Run

Typically, when encountering problems getting a mobility scooter to run, especially if the battery has a full charge, owners should check a few things first. This includes making sure that the key is in the scooter's ignition and turned to the "On" position. Additionally, owners should make sure that they insert the key correctly into the ignition. Some other troubleshooting steps include making sure that the freewheeling switch is in the "Off" position. Owners can also remove the key from the scooter for 30 seconds before placing it back in to make sure that any power-saving modes have not been activated and check the circuit breaker by pushing the circuit breaker button, sometimes labeled "Reset."

2 Battery Not Holding a Charge

Mobility scooter batteries can encounter problems, as over time, these batteries age and lose some of their effectiveness, until eventually they stop working completely. In this case, battery replacement represents the only thing that owners can do to fix the problem. Before doing so, however, they should perform some other troubleshooting measures to make sure. For collapsible scooters, seat the battery properly when unfolding the scooter for use. Owners should also make sure to properly connect the battery, while also looking for any error messages or flashing lights displayed on the scooter's dashboard.

3 Motor Not Running

While simple in design and typically durable, the motor on a mobility scooter can break down. Motor problems can results from several issues, including bumping the motor as it drops down to a lower level, driving the scooter through large areas of water, or operating it in a dusty area. While the motor might not fail initially when experiencing the above examples, it could die later.

4 Tires Need Replacing

Mobility scooter tires generally need replacement after driving the scooter for many miles and having it endure regular wear and tear. Solid tires last longer, but pneumatic tires provide a more comfortable ride, with most users typically preferring the latter type. Owners can also use filled tires on their mobility scooter, which offers a smoother ride than solid tires do.

5 Key Break Off in the Ignition

A broken-off key in the ignition represents one common problem that mobility scooter owners might encounter. To remove a broken key, owners should make sure to first turn the scooter to the "Off" position. Next, they should take a paper clip or pin and put a 90-degree bend at the end. Then, they can push the pin or paper clip into the ignition beside the key and twist. At this point, they can pull the broken part of the key out of the ignition. If it becomes necessary to use the scooter while waiting for a replacement key, leave the broken section in the ignition, and use a pair of needle-nose pliers to start the scooter until receipt of the new key.

WE CAN HELP, CALL TODAY!

Quick Tip

Although shopping for a medical scooter in an offline store is traditional, online shopping offers many advantages, especially for people who have trouble getting around. Online shopping for electrical scooters lets you compare prices, accessories, and options from the comfort of your own home. Amica Medical Supply offers free shipping directly to your door and an easy exchange or return policy if you are not satisfied with your scooter selection. Not to mention buying online will save you allot of money!

Still have a question? Call us, we can help

1-888-939-0774

This mobility scooter guide is meant to be just what the name implies, a guide. If you should have further questions regarding your or a loved one's scooter, we encourage you to seek assistance from one of our qualified mobility scooter specialist.

For questions regarding the purchase of a scooter, please contact us at 1-888-939-0774 or check out the lowest prices online at **www.amicamedicalsupply.com**

5% Off Your Mobility Scooter Purchase - Coupon Code: *MSAUTO*